



## **Office of Congressman John Linder**

U.S. Representative • (GA – 7)

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### **HOUSE PASSES LINDER WATER BILL**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The House of Representatives has given the green light to legislation that will bring the nation closer to solving its water concerns. The 21st Century Water Commission Act (H.R. 135) sponsored by Representative John Linder (R-Duluth) unanimously passed the House today by voice vote.

“Ensuring fresh water for U.S. citizens is a critical challenge facing the United States in years to come,” Representative Linder said. “This legislation will bring our nation’s premier water experts together to recommend strategies for meeting our water challenges in the 21st century.”

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Water Commission Act would create a panel of experts charged with the responsibility of developing a comprehensive water policy and submitting recommendations to Congress and the President without creating mandates on state and local governments. In addition, H.R. 135 would do the following:

- Eliminate conflict and duplication among governmental agencies and reduce the bureaucratic red tape many local communities face when trying to build water reservoirs and other infrastructure needs.
- Consider all available technologies for increasing water supply efficiently while safeguarding the environment.
- Recommend means of capturing excess water for future droughts and suggest financing options for public works projects.
- Respect the primary role of states in adjudicating, administering and regulating water rights and uses.

“The United States cannot afford to reevaluate its water policies when a crisis hits,” Linder said. “Now is the time to get ahead of this issue, and I believe this legislation can serve as a channel for sharing the successful strategies and ideas that will allow us to do so.”

The bill will now be sent to the U.S. Senate for consideration.